

**Statement from:** Christel Autuori, RDH  
**Submitted to:** Senator, Jonathan Harris; Representative, Betsy Ritter and the  
Public Health Committee members.  
**In Support of:** Raised Bill 5630

**February 22, 2009**

Sen. Harris, Rep. Ritter and members of the Committee:

My name is Christel Autuori. I am a registered dental hygienist practicing here in Connecticut.

The Forsyth Project Rotunda was a program in Massachusetts at the Forsyth Dental Hygiene School during the early 1970s. As one of the original participants in this program which taught registered dental hygienists to perform all phases of restorative dentistry, I urge you to pass this important bill to help provide access to dental care for the underserved. I have first hand knowledge that it can and will improve dental care for Connecticut residents.

There was a crisis in access to dental care in the 1970s and it has grown exponentially in the ensuing three decades.

The creation of the ADHP and EFDA in the state of Connecticut is an important step in the resolution of this crisis in access to dental care.

Connecticut led the nation almost one hundred years ago by being the first state to create the profession of dental hygiene, and it will lead the nation once again with the ADHP and EFDA improving the dental health, and therefore, the general physical health of its citizens.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

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